

## *Aloha Friends and Neighbors*

The 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions have been tremendously busy for our office - with Regular Sessions, my legislative interim work, and also three Special Sessions in 2007.

The Legislature strives to lay the groundwork every year for the creation of a sustainable Hawai'i, supporting strong families and communities, a healthy economy and environment, and a literate and competent workforce that is able to compete in the global marketplace.

To this end, the Legislature passed some significant legislation in the past two years. Affordable housing, children's health and safety, public education, transportation, economic development, energy, environmental protection, kupuna services, and family caregiving were among the priority areas we focused on. We were also successful in funding capital improvement projects that directly affect our community.

I have highlighted some significant legislative accomplishments as well as capital improvement funding that have been approved. I want to also highlight some of the wonderful community efforts and outstanding academic achievements of students in our district. It is exciting and gratifying to know that such accomplishments have been reached by our children and youth.

In addition to reviewing 1,995 bills and 379 resolutions in 2007 and an additional 1,264 bills and 374 resolutions this year, the Senate fulfilled its additional constitutional responsibility of conducting confirmation hearings for directors of state Departments, Boards, and Commissions, reviewing the qualifications of over 450 individuals.

On the economic front, recent spike in world oil prices has a ripple effect impacting many facets of our daily lives. Hawaii's economy slowed significantly in 2007. Recent local events, i.e. the shutdown of operations of Molokai Properties Limited/Molokai Ranch, and the demise of Aloha Airlines' passenger service have impacted our economy significantly. With the diminished forecast from the Council on Revenues, the State has nearly half a billion dollars less in general fund tax revenues to spend from its budget as it seeks to balance the many worthy, competing interests vying for State resources. The Legislature made very difficult and fiscally conservative decisions in crafting the 2008-2009 State budget.

Finally, support and participation from different members of any community is vital and essential to make that community thrive. I want to extend my appreciation to

**all organizations, businesses, non-profits, schools, churches, and other stakeholders for your contributions and hard work. Your efforts together have kept our community vibrant, safe and beautiful. Thank you for all you do to make Hawaii a special place for all. Please keep in touch.**

**Me ke aloha pumehana (“with warmest love”),**

**Susie Chun Oakland**

**State Senator**

**District 13**

**Alewa Heights, Dowsett Highlands,**

**Kahakaaulana, Kalihi Kai,**

**Kalihi Business District,**

**Ke’ehi Small Boat Harbor,**

**Liliha, Mokauea, Nuuanu, Mokuoeo,**

**Pacific Heights, Palama,**

**Pauoa, Puunui, Sand Island**

## *Legislative Accomplishments*

### CARING FOR OUR KUPUNA

#### Caregiving Omnibus Bill

- Extends the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving one year and renames it the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place (JLCAP).
- Expands the committee's authorization to include aging in place issues. Requires JLCAP to develop a model for a cash and counseling project.
- Allows Kupuna Care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, as well as provide grants to caregivers and for home modification.
- Appropriates an additional \$500,000 to address ½ of the waitlist to the Kupuna Care Program.
- Establishes a task force to focus on the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Authorizes the Executive Office on Aging to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with the University of Hawaii.
- Increases payments for level of care for ARCH types I and II, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult foster homes by \$10 a month for level I and Level II homes. (SB2830 CD1)

Expands the adult protective services law by extending protections to vulnerable adults, rather than only dependent adults. (SB2150 CD1)

Appropriates \$1,000,000 to the department of transportation for conducting a pilot study to identify state and county intersections where the time to cross the intersection is insufficient for elderly pedestrians and to implement any immediate improvements to high-risk crosswalks and road crossings. (HB357 CD1)

Establishes a working group to explore the provision of wage replacement benefits to employees who need time off from work to care for a family member with a serious health condition. (HB2520 CD1)

Establishes long term care policy goals and guiding principles, and a long term care commission to identify needed reforms of the long term care system; appropriates \$250,000. (SB3255 CD1)

### BUILDING ASSETS FOR THE FUTURE

Allows income tax refunds to be directly deposited in checking or savings accounts for electronically filed income tax returns similarly designated on federal returns. Requires Director of Taxation to visit low-income communities to assist in the preparation of tax return forms. (SB2838 CD1)

## **PROTECTING OUR KEIKI FROM HARM**

**Makes it a violation to leave a child unattended in a motor vehicle. Requires the examiner of drivers to test driver's license applicants for knowledge of this offense. Requires notice of law in rental cars. (SB2245 CD1)**

**Establishes criteria for the best interests of the child, to specify what factors the courts shall consider in making a custody or visitation determination concerning a minor child. (SB2054 CD1)**

**Establishes a preference for placement of children with relatives within the first 3 months of a child entering the foster care system and needing child protective services. (SB2730 CD1)**

**Establishes guiding principles for foster children and provides notice to foster children. (HB523 CD1)**

**Requires the judiciary to convene and obtain assistance from a child custody advisory task force to define the employment requirements, standards of practice, policies, procedures, and court-enforced oversight of investigators and professional personnel that assist with child custody evaluations. (SB2055 CD1)**

## **EDUCATING AND NURTURING OUR KEIKI**

**Creates the Early Learning Council to develop and administer the early learning system, to be known as Keiki First Steps. Establishes the Keiki First Steps Grant Program. Statutorily establishes the Pre-Plus Program. Promotes the development of early learning facilities. (SB2878 CD1)**

**Increases the time periods during which a former foster youth may apply for and receive higher education board allowance benefits. (HB1356 CD1)**

**Clarifies the notice requirement to custodial parents in the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) law with regard to income tax refund setoff. (SB2977 CD1)**

## **EXPANDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Provides \$15 million to the rental housing trust fund to build more affordable rentals. (HB2500 CD1)**

**Provides an additional \$10 million to the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund to build more affordable for-sale housing. (HB2500 CD1)**

**Provides \$10 million for renovating public housing projects. (HB2500 CD1)**

**Increases the Hula Mae multifamily revenue bond authorization to \$500 million. (SB3174 CD1)**

**Provides qualified rental assistance applicants up to ninety days to find a qualified rental dwelling. (HB2511 CD1)**

## **SUPPORTING PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**Requires the department of education to implement recommendations of the online learning task force. (HB2971 SD2)**

**Requires UH to prepare an annual incentive and performance report and plan that will assist the Legislature in appropriating up to two percent of UH's annual budget to facilitate UH's strategic plan and related state goals. Establishes a task force to assist UH in developing a budgetary system that includes a funding formula for the distribution of fiscal resources to the various UH campuses. (HB2978 CD1)**

**Requires Board of Education to provide wage adjustments for substitute teachers comparable to across-the-board wage adjustments negotiated for teachers in collective bargaining unit (5). Allows BOE to adjust hours, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment for substitute teachers. (SB2652 CD1)**

**Addresses the teacher shortage in the state through the appropriation of funds for public school teachers to take preparatory courses, tutorials, or programs for the PRAXIS examinations to become highly qualified under the No Child Left Behind Act and to establish professional development schools. (SB3252 CD1)**

## **MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY**

**Establishes a renewable energy facility siting process to expedite the review and action upon state and county permits necessary for the siting, development, construction, and operation of a renewable energy facility of at least 200 megawatts of electricity. Establishes a renewable energy facility siting special fund. (HB2863 CD1)**

**Requires manufacturers of electronic devices to collect and recycle electronic devices. (SB2843 CD1)**

**Directs the public utilities commission to establish standards for solar water heater systems. Prohibits issuance of a building permit on or after 1/1/2010 for single-family residences that do not include a solar water heater system that meets the standards. Allows the energy resources coordinator to approve a variance for installation of solar water heater systems. Restricts the solar thermal energy systems tax credit available for single-family residential properties to those properties for which permits were issued prior to 1/1/2010. Provides that renewable energy technologies tax credits for systems installed and placed in service in 2009 for single-family residential properties may not be claimed by residential home developers. (SB644 CD1)**

**Requires the department of education, in a partnership with the department of health, to establish a three-year food waste recycling pilot project in one or more public schools. Allows departments to enter into public/private partnerships to establish and operate the pilot program. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. (SB871 CD1)**

**Provides incentives and protections to establish and sustain viable agricultural operations on important agricultural lands, and provides for the designation of important agricultural lands on public lands. (SB2646 CD1)**

**Authorizes the public utilities commission to establish a ratepayer-funded photovoltaic rebate program. (SB988 CD1)**

**Establishes a full-time, temporary renewable energy facilitator position within the department of business, economic development, and tourism and provides funding from the energy security special fund. Establishes the energy security special fund. Amends uses of the environmental response revolving fund to include deposits to the energy security special fund. Appropriates moneys to the energy security special fund for funding new personnel costs and designated energy program activities. (HB2505 CD1)**

**Appropriates funds to establish two positions (greenhouse gas task force) to support the implementation of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007. (HB2507 CD1)**

**Requires the University of Hawaii at Manoa Public Policy Center within the College of Social Sciences to review the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan and report to the Legislature. (SB2833 CD1)**

## **AGRICULTURE AND LAND RESOURCES**

**Permits the use of lands in agricultural land use districts to be used for agricultural-energy facilities provided that the primary activity of the agricultural-energy enterprise is agricultural activity. (SB2849 CD1)**

**Establishes and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program. Appropriates funds for planning interim and permanent joint inspection facilities. (SB2850 CD1)**

**Expands the items subject to the inspection, quarantine, and eradication service fee (inspection fee) to include any freight brought into the State. Requires the inspection fee to be assessed based on net weight of imported freight. Designates the person paying the freight charges to a transportation company as the party responsible for paying the fee. Clarifies that the transportation company is not liable for the fee in the event the party responsible for the fee fails to pay it. (HB2843 CD1)**

**Establishes various provisions and mechanisms to allow the Agribusiness Development Corporation to acquire agricultural lands. Authorizes ADC to acquire specific agricultural lands located on Oahu and owned by the Galbraith Estate. (HB2293 CD1)**

**Establishes the Ha'iku Valley cultural preserve commission to exercise policy and management oversight of the Ha'iku Valley cultural preserve. (HB2704 CD1)**

**Directs the governor, or the governor's designee, to acquire lands owned by Kuilima Resort Company, Oaktree Capital, LLC, and their successors in interest, commonly known as Turtle Bay Hotel and Resort located in Kahuku, Oahu. (SB2423 CD1)**

**Creates the taro security and purity task force. Appropriates funds. (SB2915 CD1)**

**Provides a tax credit to encourage the preservation and protection of conservation land in the State. (SB2198 CD1)**

## **BOOSTING HEALTHCARE RESOURCES**

**Establishes additional funding mechanisms for the trauma system special fund. (SB1804 CD1)**

**Establishes a statewide organ donor registry. (HB2366 CD1)**

**Establishes the temporary autism spectrum disorders benefits and coverage task force to research the problems faced by parents of children with autism and what can be done to ensure that proper benefits and services are provided through public and private resources to address the special needs of children with autism, including providing services involving applied behavioral analysis techniques. (HB2727 CD1)**

**Temporarily expands eligibility for the Hawaii children's health care program to assist children of workers employed by a Hawaii-based corporation which filed for bankruptcy and ceased doing business in Hawaii between February 29, 2008 and September 30, 2008 or only ceased during business in Hawaii during that time period. (SB69 CD1)**

## **ENSURING SAFETY OF CITIZENS**

**Establishes power of attorney for special education. Establishes the process to appoint an educational representative for an adult student who lacks capacity. Clarifies the authority of a guardian of an adult student. (SB2879 CD1)**

**Creates a new misdemeanor offense of harassment by impersonation. (SB2456 CD1)**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Expands the authority of the Aloha Tower Development Corporation to assist in the development of the statewide harbors modernization plan by establishing the Harbors Modernization Group. Authorizes the department of transportation to issue revenue bonds to finance the harbor improvements. Appropriates or authorizes moneys from the harbor revenue bond funds. (SB3227 CD1)**

## **GOOD GOVERNMENT**

**Authorizes permanent absentee voting. Makes appropriation. (SB156 CD1)**

**Prescribes the procedure to be followed at certain neighborhood board meetings, such as the information that may be included in the written public notice, the information that the board may receive on a matter, quorum requirements, and the discussion and decision-making process. (HB2730 CD1)**

**Coordinates responsibility for procurement training from the department of human resources development to state procurement office; provides that initial training is to be mandatory for all state procurement officers and thereafter follow-up sessions for those officers as determined by the state procurement office to be in need of training based upon the history of compliance with the governmental body to which the procurement officer is attached, or as otherwise selected for attendance for any reason by the state procurement office. Attendance for other state procurement officers at follow-up sessions and for county procurement officers at all sessions is encouraged. Eff. 1/1/2009. (SB2826 CD1)**

**Establishes pilot project for comprehensive public funding of Hawaii County Council Elections for three election cycles, beginning in 2010. Establishes penalties for failure to file a report and for filing a substantially defective or deficient report. Clarifies definition of "loan." Clarifies definition of "person" as including a business entity or organization. Requires amounts collected as administrative fines by Campaign Spending Commission to be deposited into the general fund. Increases State income tax check-off amount from \$2 to \$3 for deposit into the Hawaii election campaign fund. Increases amount of candidate's surplus funds that may be contributed to community services and other organizations. Clarifies deadlines and procedures for electronic filing. (HB661 CD1)**

## **CULTURAL**

**Establishes each November 20th as the Makahiki Commemoration day. (SB1035 CD1)**

## **OTHER**

**Makes establishing offender reentry program mandatory. (SB2546 CD1)**

**Extends the sunset date to July 1, 2010 for the voluntary employees' beneficiary association trust pilot program established pursuant to Act 245, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, as amended. Requires the state auditor to conduct an analysis of the cost and financial impact of Act 245, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, and to report to the legislature by December 6, 2010. (SB2262 CD1)**



## *Capital Improvement Projects Funding Approved*

<b>Dole Middle School</b>	
Reroof kitchen	\$ 168,000
Temporary facilities (portables)	\$ 1,200,000
<b>Kaewai Elementary School</b>	
Electrical upgrades	\$ 539,000
Replace kitchen floor	\$ 65,000
Library entry drainage improvements	\$ 250,000
<b>Kalihi Elementary School</b>	
ADA-compliant restrooms	\$ 500,000
<b>Kalihi Kai Elementary School</b>	
Electrical upgrades	\$ 775,000
<b>Kalihi Uka Elementary School</b>	
Restroom renovations	\$ 320,000
New security fencing	\$ 35,000
<b>Kalihi Waena Elementary School</b>	
Air conditioning	\$ 300,000
ADA access ramp	\$ 153,000
<b>Kauluwela Elementary School</b>	
Whole school renovation	awaiting release of funds by Governor
Covered walkway - Building E to Building F	\$ 100,000
<b>Kawananakoa Middle School</b>	
Electrical upgrades	\$ 475,000
<b>Lanakila Elementary School</b>	
Whole classroom renovation completed	
Electrical upgrades	\$ 539,000
<b>Likeli Elementary School</b>	
Whole school renovation	funds appropriated by Legislature, awaiting release by Governor for construction
<b>Liliha Library</b>	
New carpeting and receiving desk	installation in 2007
<b>Linapuni Elementary School</b>	
Soil stabilization, structural repairs	\$ 800,000

Lincoln Elementary School	
Structural repair to rock wall	
Drainage improvements	\$ 940,000
Ma'ema'e Elementary School	
Whole school renovation completed	
McKinley High School	
Plans for athletic complex	\$ 450,000
Nu'uuanu Elementary School	funds appropriated by Legislature, awaiting release by Governor for construction
Pauoa Elementary School	
Electrical upgrades, re-roofing	\$ 610,000
Roosevelt High School	
School auditorium	completed in 2008
Stevenson Middle School	
Multipurpose educational facility	
Relocation of administrative/support offices	
Renovation of existing admin. space for classroom use	\$ 7,200,000
Multipurpose recreational facility	\$ 1,500,000
Interstate Route H-1	
School Street drainage improvements	
On-ramp retaining wall replacement	\$ 8,999,000
Keehi Small Boat Harbor Improvements	
Additional funds for piers	\$ 1,500,000
Replacement of piers	work to begin 2008
Keehi Small Boat Harbor Improvements for	
Honolulu Marine Supply relocation	\$ 4,000,000
Sand Island Container Yard	\$ 3,500,000
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center	\$ 134,000
Additional 2007-2008 operating funds	
Maluhia Hospital	
Replace X-ray system	\$ 414,000
Lanakila Rehabilitation Center	\$ 300,000

<b>Kukui Gardens Rental Housing Complex</b>	
<b>First increment of purchase</b>	<b>\$ 26,000,000</b>
<b>Public Housing Elevator Improvements, Statewide</b>	<b>\$ 6,410,000</b>
<b>Public Housing Improvements and Renovations, Statewide</b>	<b>\$ 10,000,000</b>
<b>Makamae Housing - Renovation of units scheduled for completion in 2008</b>	
<b>Puuhala Housing - Renovation of units scheduled for completion in 2008</b>	
<b>Rental Housing Trust Fund Infusion</b>	<b>\$ 15,000,000</b>
<b>Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund Infusion</b>	<b>\$ 10,000,000</b>
<b>Hawaiian Home Lands Trust Fund, Statewide</b>	<b>\$ 30,000,000</b>
<b>Hawaiian Home Lands Development, Statewide</b>	<b>\$100,000,000</b>
<b>Veterans Cemetery Improvements, Statewide</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>
<b>Bishop Museum</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>
<b>Dam Assessments, Maintenance and Remediation, Statewide</b>	<b>\$ 14,530,000</b>
<b>Rockfall Protection/Slope Stabilization at Various Locations, Statewide</b>	<b>\$ 800,000</b>
	<b>\$ 200,000</b>
<b>Rockfall Mitigation, Statewide</b>	<b>\$ 1,770,000</b>
<b>Bikeway Improvements at Various Locations, Statewide</b>	<b>\$ 800,000</b>

## *Academic Achievements - Congratulations are in Order!*

**Lanakila Elementary School** was identified as a "bright spot" among the 258 Schools ``statewide in the May issue of the "Honolulu" Magazine! According to the success story about Lanakila Elementary School: "... faculty members view education as a constant work in progress. They attend multiple seminars annually to learn better ways to do their jobs, meet regularly to discuss how to implement changes in their classrooms and analyze their effects on their students' learning."

**Lanakila Elementary School** was recognized by **Reading First** as a "**Beacon School**." Through the hard work of teachers and Reading First Coaches, Lanakila has implemented the core components of Reading First with rigor. The school entered the Reading First Program in 2004 with a baseline of 33% of third grade students meeting the reading benchmark. In 2005, 43% met proficiency. In 2006, 57% ; and in 2007, 78%.

Educators from Minnesota and Arkansas were enthused to learn about the Mathematics and Science Partnership in which **Lanakila Elementary teachers** were participating. Teachers Jason Okamoto and Carrolyn Emoto gave a superb presentation at the U.S.D.O.E.-sponsored conference in San Francisco in February to share about the critical link between professional development and actual classroom practice.

**Farrington High School** science students and their teacher, Ms. Bebi Davis, took **top national honors** in the **Lexus Environmental Challenge Competition**. The Farrington "Dream Team" investigated the impact of marine debris on marine life and humans. They left a lasting impact on their community and helped preserve the limited resource of water by organizing beach clean-ups and testing water quality. This success enabled Farrington to reach the Final Challenge which required extending beyond the local community to inspire environmental action around the world via communicating innovative ideas to a wide audience. Their final challenge project dealt with clean energy and hydrogen power fuel cells. Farrington took top prize of \$75,000 in the high school division, some of which will go to the school and Ms. Davis' classroom, and some split among the participants for scholarships and service projects.

**78% of Nuuanu Elementary School's** 5th graders scored "meeting or higher" in science testing as compared to the state average of 49%.

**Royal Elementary School** "met" the Hawaii State Assessment benchmarks from School Year 06-07, and as such was recognized at the annual Superintendent's achievement luncheon this year.

**Kalihi Waena Elementary School** for the first time entered the Olelo competition for Public Service Announcements this year. At the award luncheon at Ihilani in May, their fourth grade team came in first place. What an accomplishment for a first time entry!

Other academic highlights: First Lego competition; Keiki Water Festival where students learned the importance of a water shed and pure water quality for the sea life and our stream health; annual Hoike honoring former Representative Dennis Arakaki, celebrating the diverse cultures at our school; a theatrical production where students wrote a play based on Dr. Suess' book the Lorax, collaborating with a consultant from

Hawaii Theater for Youth.

**Central Middle School's** academic achievement for SY 2007-08 was highlighted by students' monthly benchmark scores. These scores have made steady progress throughout the school year in meeting proficiency towards Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in both Math and Reading. The school's vision is *ke a'o 'ana ā mau loa - learning for life*.

Central students rounded out the academic year with participation in the Iolani Intermediate Math Meet, Accelerated Reader, District Spelling Bee, March Science Fair, Skills USA State Leadership Conference and Championships, UPLINK (Uniting Peer Learning, Integrating New Knowledge), and McKinley Mini Math Meet.

**Kawananakoa Middle School, Kauluwela Elementary School, and Nuuanu Elementary School** were recognized in 2007 as **Blue Ribbon Schools** in Hawaii. Special congratulations to Kawananakoa Middle School for being recognized as a national Blue Ribbon School. To be recognized as an outstanding school among schools across the nation is a very high honor.

Congratulations to **Kawananakoa Place Association** on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007 as an association and for their civic mindedness.

## *Community Appreciation*

Support and participation from different members of any community is vital and essential to make that community a thriving one. I want to extend appreciation to the following for their contributions and hard work. Their efforts collectively have kept our community vibrant, safe and beautiful.

To State Department of Transportation, mahalo for responding positively to our office's request to create the new lane between the Liliha Street on-ramp and Pali Highway off-ramp of the H-1 Highway. Thank you also to the resident who contacted our office to make the suggestion.

To City Department of Transportation Services, mahalo for installing the pedestrian-activated traffic signal in front of St. Theresa's School and Church on North School Street. Much appreciation to the St. Theresa's School and Church ohana for helping put together a petition five years ago that was submitted to the City. It was a big help.

To Good Shepherd Church, mahalo for sponsoring community gatherings for children and families of the Kunawai and Lanakila neighborhoods.

To Kalihi Business Association, mahalo for coordinating another successful "Sunset in Kalihi" event this past summer.

To St. Peter's Episcopal Church, mahalo for sponsoring after-school activities for teens at Central Middle School.

To alumni, parents, teachers, and community partners of Kawananakoa Middle School, mahalo for your generosity in purchasing chairs for the school's auditorium. Also to teachers Daniel Mew and Brian Lee Sackett, founder of Hawaii Repertory Theatre, for their countless hours and expertise in the ongoing improvements being made to the auditorium.

To Aikane 'o Nuuanu, Nuuanu Elementary School staff, parents, and students, mahalo for a great job organizing the school's fun fairs in 2007 and 2008. Everyone had a good time.

To Pauoa PTA, Pauoa Elementary School staff, parents, and students, mahalo for a great job in planning the school's fairs in 2007 and 2008. It was a wonderful success.

To Ma'ema'e Elementary School's parents, staff, and students, mahalo for the superb job in planning the school's annual fun fairs. Everyone had a fun time!

To Central Middle, Fern Elementary, Kalihi-Kai Elementary, Kalihi-Waena Elementary, Kapalama Elementary, Lanakila Elementary, Likelike Elementary, Linapuni Elementary, Ma'ema'e Elementary, Nuuanu Elementary, and Pauoa Elementary Schools, mahalo for inviting me to your May Day Programs. The students did so well with their performances. To the dedicated teachers and community partners for helping the children and teens shine!

To McKinley High School's athletes, Schnitzer Steel, and other recycling companies, area legislators, council members, their staff, and other volunteers, mahalo for your efforts in January 2007 to recycle tires, batteries, computers, cell phones, washers, dryers, and other products that contained metal; glass, plastic, paper, and aluminum containers; and other recyclables. It was a huge undertaking. If you would like to participate in the next McKinley recycling service project, please contact 586-6130. It is scheduled for November 1, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at McKinley High School's parking lot off of Pensacola Street.

To area legislators, staff, and volunteers, mahalo for sponsoring the recycling effort at Farrington High School as well! If you would like to participate in the next Farrington recycling service project, please contact Rene Mansho at 306-1876.

To Liliha-Palama Business Association and Kalihi Business Association, mahalo for coordinating successful Christmas Parades in 2006 and 2007. To all the community organizations who gave their time and resources to make the parades special for the residents, especially the children. The 2008 Liliha and Kalihi parades are scheduled for November 28, 2008, at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

To sponsors of the "I Love Liliha" festival in August 2007, mahalo for a fun-filled day for the whole family. The next "I Love Liliha" festival will be on August 30, 2008, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Kawananakoa playground and school.

To Daughters of Hawaii, mahalo for ongoing efforts to preserve historic sites along Pali Highway.

To Friends of Kapena Falls, mahalo for diligent efforts to restore the area with native species of plants.

To "Lost," mahalo for donations to purchase water sprinkler equipment and plants.

To Ke'ehi Small Boat Harbor Club, mahalo for outstanding community service in improving the piers in April 2007. Your efforts are deeply appreciated.

To Kai Makana and the over 300 volunteers for going to Mokauea Island to begin restoration of the last remaining fishing village of Oahu. The vision is to have a living educational center established for generations to learn and enjoy.

To Kokua Kalihi Valley and the many volunteers for continuing to help create a living park in Kalihi Valley using the 100 acre state-owned Kalihi Valley Park. Your efforts to educate our keiki by offering farming, land conservation, trail work, canoe-making, and other cultural experiences is meaningful service to our community and will benefit many generations to come.

To grassroots efforts of Save Kaka'ako coalition, mahalo for preserving and enhancing the shoreline downtown for local people and visitors to enjoy.

To Puunui Nikkei Jin Kai, mahalo for hosting the annual community picnic at Puunui

**Playground in 2007 and 2008. The fellowship and fun games for the whole family is appreciated.**

**To residents of Mayor Wright Housing, Weed and Seed staff, Honolulu Police Department, and volunteers for organizing many clean-ups in the Palama area in 2007 and 2008. Your kokua and caring really made a difference.**

**To area residents, mahalo for your help in painting the bus stops in the neighborhood. Thanks to the Department of Transportation Services for providing the paint, brushes, roller and thinner to the volunteers. If you know of bus stops in the neighborhood in need of beautification, please contact 586-6130.**